

NEW STANDARD SET BY SUMMER STOCK

Demand for High Grade
Entertainment Reflected in
Local Companies.

COLUMBIA PLAYERS OF UNIFORM MERIT

Aborn Opera Has Auspicious
Opening—Program Offered
for This Week.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

Daisies have been persistently blooming the grass around the Capitol has been trimmed and the Washington baseball club has struck bottom, but not until the past week did we know that spring was really here. Then came the first straw hats and the summer stock companies.

The Messrs. Metzger and Berger, Apostles of Rejuvenation, Inc., have scored again by demonstrating two things: That stock offerings can be as capably presented and as appropriately staged as productions designed for the road if one knows how, and that the Columbia Theater can be cool and comfortable in summer as well as "cozy" in winter. They will ever rejuvenate "Aunt Mary" next week.

Through the lobby of the National Theater foliage and flowers form a background, while canaries twitter to the melody of the Aborn Opera Company.

An Oriental story in "Madam Butterfly," set to music of Puccini's vigorous composing and a return engagement of John Mason will round out the regular season at the Belasco. After that the house will not be dark, but plans for the summer are being kept exceedingly so.

Lesson of Array.
The dramatic excellence of the Columbia players, the pretentious organization of the Aborn Opera Company, the lengthened season at the Belasco have a lesson. They indicate a growing demand in the Capital for theatrical entertainment, and more than that, a demand managers must heed, that this entertainment be of the highest order.

To organize a stock company means hard work and requires intimate knowledge of things theatrical. The time for launching such an undertaking is generally shorter than that allotted to the formation of a road company. The manager has not to arrange for the presentation of one play, but for three, four, five or more—the number being determined by the excellence of his arrangements.

This is preliminary to an appreciation of the accomplishment of the Messrs. Metzger, Berger, and the Aborns. The Aborn has the advantage. Two successful seasons ago the Columbia organization into a semblance of permanency. The Columbia company marked a new undertaking.

The assembling of the cast seen last week in "The Three of Us" is a triumph. There is no star, therefore, each member must be the stronger. Most of Washington saw Miss Adams' "Paid in Full," and whatever the verdict may have been on the Walter play there was little disagreement on the capability of Miss Adams. Without detracting one whit from Miss Dean's credit it can be said that the most pleasing feature of "The Three of Us" seen last week was the uniform excellence of the cast. In this play are parts that might be glossed over, or that might be developed by genuine acting. In nearly every case each role was made to stand for something.

Has Dramatic Significance.
This policy promises to make the Columbia's summer season more than a means of light summer entertainment. It is management can maintain this standard its efforts should have a genuine dramatic significance. An opportunity is afforded in "The Little Minister." True, the charm of Miss Adams' presence will be missed. Instead the managers hope to develop this play as they believe it should be, with a "star." In the company is a member of the cast that presented the play in London. His suggestions, it is claimed, may serve to throw new light on the lesser parts. At any rate the result will be worth watching.

The Aborn company has grown in numbers it is behind very few companies on the road. The scenic investment is adequate. The ensembles are richer in volume and of a better quality than those of the same company last year. The Times pointed out in its review of Tuesday that the principals scarcely reflected the improvement of the company in other details. At least one member of the cast suffered from extreme nervousness that were away as the week passed, and her singing on Friday night was a distinct improvement over her singing on Monday night. The fact that the Aborns are running in other cities will necessitate changes in the cast from week to week, and it is possible that the leading parts in "Robin Hood" were taken by singers below the Aborn standard.

In view of the care expended in other details of this company it is hard to understand the policy of employing such a small orchestra. The expense of a few additional instruments would seem insignificant beside the improvement in effectiveness. The orchestra of last week was inadequate for the full beauty of a De Koven score.

Perhaps the most notable musical event of the week was the reorganization of the Washington Symphony Orchestra. That the concert last Thursday lacked the finish of the Boston symphony was a matter of small moment beside the promise held out by this venture for a permanent symphony orchestra in Washington.

GRAND OPERA AT THE BELASCO; POPULAR OFFERINGS

"Madam Butterfly" Will Be
Sung Here by English
Company.

Columbia Players and Aborn
Organization Have At-
tractive Bills.

Since Puccini, composer, presented "Tosca" and "La Boheme," eager anticipation follows an announcement of a new book by this composer. His melodies are said to possess remarkable individuality and freshness in the opera "Madam Butterfly."

After a brief prelude and preliminary episode, the entrance of Butterfly and her friends is marked with music of Oriental charm and daintiness. Thenceforth all her child-like moods are depicted with skill. In the first act her pretty song, "I'll Weep No More," and Pinkerton's "Child, From Whose Eyes the Witchery is Shining," followed by the final love duet, "Oh Night of Rapture!" are revelations of Puccini's methods.

The second act is full of passages of pathos, notably Butterfly's "Vision Song" and her "Lament," and the exodus "Flower Duet." The act ends with a charming effect of a distant chorus chanting a haunting melody outside the shop, or shop window, and Butterfly, with her child and maid, Suzuki, maintain their all-night vigil.

A pretentious prelude of the last act pictures the coming of day, which is the downfall of trusting Butterfly's hopes.

COLUMBIA—"The Little Minister."

A production of uniform excellence is promised patrons of the Columbia Theater tomorrow night when the curtain rises on "The Little Minister." With an augmented cast, bringing out for the first time several new members of the company, the original music by W. W. Furst, and a complete scenic equipment specially designed for this production by a corps of artists under the personal direction of George Rex Wilson, late of the Drury Lane Theater, London, Messrs. Metzger and Berger feel that a liberal use of adjectives may well be applied to their offering.

The original version will be used, which is J. M. Barrie's dramatization of his own novel of that name. It is identical book used by Maud Adams, in which she achieved fame and fortune as Lady Babbie.

Two other members of the company who are expected to acquit themselves in a manner to command extended notice are Alexander Calvert, as Gavin Disher, and Alexander F. Frank, as Lord Rintoul.

Among the new faces to be seen for the first time as members of the Columbia company, tomorrow night, interest probably centers in Ethel Wright. There will also be Alice Parks, Warren, with Julia Marlowe during the past season; F. Cecil Lewis, Will H. Conley, and others.

NATIONAL—"The Serenade."

The Aborn Opera Company, at the New National Theater, will devote next week to a revival of "The Serenade," by Harry B. Smith and Victor Herbert.

The selection of this opera to follow "Robin Hood" is most apropos, as well as most convenient, for it demands practically the same accomplishments and personalities in its various roles, though the two works are entirely dissimilar in all other respects.

These two operas were the two greatest successes in the long line of triumphs of the Belasco.

Smith and Herbert have furnished many delightful pieces for the comic opera stage, and their output possesses such wide variety that it would be hard to say which is their best work, but "The Serenade" holds a front rank along with the best of their other compositions.

Helen Bertram and George Frothingham will again be seen and heard in roles they graced with the Belasco, the former as Yvonne, and the latter in the laughable and thoroughly enjoyable character of Gomez.

CHASE'S—Vaudeville.

Chase's this week will offer a bill embracing "A Night With the Poets," Hymanek, the "chameleon comedian," the Millman Trio, George McKay and John Cantwell; the Four Rianos, Kats

PRICES 25c, 50c, 75c

NEW NATIONAL

PERMANENT SEASON OF LIGHT OPERA.

Nights at 8:20. Mats. at 2:20.

SECOND ABORN OPERA

WEEK ABORN OPERA CO.

In the Herbert-Smith Comic Opera,

THE SERENADE

School Children's Matinee Wednesday.

All Seats, 25c, Reserved.

Regular Matinee Saturday.

NEXT WEEK—SEATS TOMORROW.

THE HIGHWAYMAN

MATINEES WED. & SAT.

AT 2:20

PRICES SAT. MAT. 25c-50c

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THOMAS CHATTERTON,
With Columbia Players.

Reaney, Milt Wood, and the American Vitagraph series, "Industrial South Africa."

ACADEMY—"Graustark."

"Graustark" will be seen at the Academy of Music this week, and it is said that George Barr McCutcheon's famous book is faithfully reproduced, giving all the dramatic scenes described in the novel, and depicting the romance of an adventurous American and a princess. As in the story it is claimed that this remarkable play interests one from the rise of the curtain. It is in five acts, and covers the journey of "Lorry" and "Yvette" as told by Mr. McCutcheon. It is mounted with an elaborate production of scenic and property equipment, and an array of picturesque costumes and interpreted by a host of players that excel in their particular lines.

Gertrude Perry, an actress of decided ability, will portray "Princess Yvette," and "Lorry" will be in the hands of Alfred Britton, a young leading man who has joined to the front rank of romantic actors in one bound. The play is presented by the Graustark Company, (Inc.), and its staging is under the personal direction of James W. Castle, former stage director Mms. Schumann-Haak Opera Company, to whom credit should be given for the many scenic innovations. One who has read the novel can imagine the beautiful stage settings in "Graustark" for all the scenes in "Edgewood" as described by Mr. McCutcheon are shown.

LYCEUM—"The Smart Set."

"The Smart Set," exponents of clean comedy of the highest class, will be seen at the Lyceum this week in a new and thoroughly up-to-date musical comedy drama entitled "The Black Politician."

The piece is by S. B. Cassin and is in three acts. The comedy, while side-splitting, is clean and wholesome, and the melody is of the jingly, tuneful, whistly sort that at once appeals to everybody.

The plot deals with the effects of two rival candidates after the majority of a mythical town down South.

The staging is said to be excellent.

GAYETY—"Fads and Follies."

The booking for the Gayety Theater this week is C. B. Arnold's "Fads and Follies" Company.

The main feature of the engagement will be a musical absurdity in two acts entitled "Flashlights of Broadway." A little of everything that is in vogue this season is said to be worked through the action, which is made funny and entertaining by clever people and the frequent introduction of catchy chorus numbers. Variety acts will be offered by Smith Moore and Company, the famous Percy Troupe, Morris and Morton, May Walsh, and Irvin Walton.

CHASE'S—Vaudeville.

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Mason Will Play Return
Engagement of "The
Witching Hour."

"Merely Mary Ann" at Co-
lumbia, and "The High-
wayman" at National.

It will be welcome news to many theatergoers to learn that John Mason in "The Witching Hour" plays a return engagement at the Belasco Theater next week.

The time of his recent visit here was during Holy Week which kept away many who wanted to see this attraction. In spite of this fact "The Witching Hour" is said to have broken all local records for theater attendance during Holy Week. At that time Manager Taylor endeavored to have Mr. Mason's engagement extended to two weeks, but other contracts prevented. Repeated requests for a return visit have borne fruit and instead of closing the attraction at the end of its present engagement in Philadelphia next Saturday, the Shubert have decided to keep the company out on a week longer and send it to the Belasco. The same company and production as seen here last month will be seen here next week.

NATIONAL—"The Highwayman."

Following the production of "The Serenade" at the New National Theater this week, the Aborn Opera Company will present another Smith and de Koven comic opera, "The Highwayman," offering an exact duplicate of the Broadway Theater production, and the usual assemblage of favorites in the cast.

"The Highwayman" next to "Robin Hood" is the most pronounced success Harry B. Smith and Reginald de Koven have turned out. Its book is one of nonsense, founded on a smattering of English history, conveniently garbed in true comic opera dress to fit the charming romance evolved in the fertile imagination of Librettist Smith. It is rich with unique characters, intricate complications and everything that tends to excite the risibilities from the most refined humor and satire to downright buffoonery.

COLUMBIA—"Merely Mary Ann" To Be Given.

Following "The Little Minister," "Merely Mary Ann" will be placed upon the stage of the Columbia Theater as the third offering of the Columbia Players next week. The play, considered by many, Israel

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

CHASE'S
The largest, handsomest and most popular theater with weekly bills surpassing the best and \$2.00 attractions. Daily Matinee 25c, 50c, 75c. Event, 25c, 50c, and 75c.

THE ARTISTIC TRIUMPH
"A NIGHT WITH THE POETS,"
Presented by a Metropolitan Company of Artists, Directed by Harry B. Smith. Headed by Clinton E. Lloyd, WHITTIER, KIPLING, RILEY, and others. Splendidly Dramatic Realism.

THE FOUR RIANOS.
"A Jungle Jamboree in Africa."
The London Hippodrome Hit. A Triple Aerial Marvel. Abounding in Sensational and Laughable Feats.

KATIE ROONEY.
The Jolly Singing Comedienne.

The Clever Comedians.
McKay & Cantwell.
Former Comic Stars of "The Merry Go-Round." Presenting the Musical Trifles, "On The Great White Way."

MILT WOOD.
The Dancer With the Chair.

ADDED ATTRACTION.
Europe's Premier Spectacular Transportation.
MR. HYMANEK.
"The Chameleon Comedian."
What is he? He does it all. Does it all?

Next Week—Close of the season
—Nat. M. Wills (ac. Eve)
Taylor & Co. Volta. ac. Buy
Seats Tomorrow.

THE MILLMAN TRIO.

A Triple Aerial Marvel.

Abounding in Sensational and Laughable Feats.

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NEW NATIONAL THEATER

MATINEE, 2 P. M., THURSDAY, MAY 27

★THE LAMBS★

STAR GAMBOL

Following artists will positively appear:

James O'Neill, Victor Herbert, Eugene Cowles, Joseph Weber, Charles Klein, Wilton Lackaye, George Hamlin, Lew Fields, Clay M. Greene, Digby Bell, Andrew Mack, Henry E. Dixey, George Broadhurst, Robert Edson, Donald Ogden Stewart, Charles Evans, George V. Hobart, Maclyn Arbuckle, Joseph Herbert, Charles Hopper, Melville Stewart, William F. Felt, Frank Behler, William Burress, John McCloskey, Cyril Scott, Neal McGay, John Slavin, John B. Park, William Muldon, Walter Lawrence, Joseph Martinelli, Clayton E. White, Benjamin Hurt, R. H. Burnside, William Harrison, Wallace Edinger, Augustus Thomas, Glen McDonough, and twenty other Star Lambs, accompanied by Victor Herbert's Orchestra and band of fifty musicians.

Auction sale of Seats and Boxes

National Theater Friday, May 28,

at 5 p. m. promptly.

ACADEMY

Mats. Tues. Thurs. and Sat.

Tomorrow Night and Week

THE

DRAMATIC SENSATION

OF THE COUNTRY

GRAUSTARK

With a Metropolitan Cast of

Reputation and Ability,

Headed by

MISS

GERTRUDE PERRY

as the "Princess Yvette," and

Mr. Alfred Britton as

GRENFALL LORRY

A STANDARD ATTRACTION

AT POPULAR PRICES

NEXT WEEK

ROSE MELVILLE

IN SIS HOPKINS

GRAND CONCERT